

Colleyville, for joint cooperation in jail and dispatch services. He created and implemented a career guide to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the command staff and supervisors in a successful effort to secure a safer community.

Chief Finn has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career. In 1993, Chief Finn was recognized as Southlake Firefighter of the Year, and in 1995 he received the Southlake DPS Director's Award for Excellence. As a member of the community, Chief Finn's leadership has been recognized by the Southlake Rotary Club as 2007 Rotarian of Year and Southlake Chamber of Commerce as 2008 Southlake Citizen of the Year.

Chief Finn has also served as a leader in many of the Southlake community organizations. He was the President of the Texas Association of Law Enforcement Planners from 2000–2001, Peer Assessor for the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies from 2000–2005, FBI National Academy Alumni Association member since 2001, Peer Assessor and Team Leader of the Center for Public Safety Excellence since 2006, Rotarian since 2004 and President from 2006–2007, Advisory Board Member for Southlake Art in the Square since 2008, Board of Trustee Member of Metroport Meals on Wheels since 2010, and Advisory Board Member of Kids Matter International since 2011.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Finn for his 24 years of public service to the City of Southlake.

#### HONORING STACIE AND KEN PODOS

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Congregation Shaaray Israel of Monroe, NY, will honor Stacie and Ken Podos at their Journal Dinner Dance on June 12, 2011 for their long-time dedication to the congregation. Stacie and Ken are deeply involved in the synagogue and have held various leadership positions within the congregation.

Ken, a sales representative for J.K.J. Sales, Inc., currently serves as Chairman of Shaaray Israel's Board, and until recently was President of the congregation. Before his term as President, Ken began as financial secretary at Shaaray Israel, eventually moving on to serve as third, second and first Vice President. In addition to his work at the congregation, Ken is active on the Jewish Federation of Rockland's Board of Trustees.

Stacie, like her husband, is a leader in the congregation. She currently serves as chairperson of Shaaray Israel's Dedication Committee and is the incoming Vice-President of the Sisterhood. In addition to her work within the congregation, Stacie was heavily involved in the construction and design of the synagogue's new building. Trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Stacie is an interior designer by trade and helped decide on the materials and look of the synagogue.

Ken's and Stacie's commitment to the Jewish community extends beyond their congregation. They are actively involved in the Jewish

Community Center of Long Beach Island, and serve on various national Jewish organizations. Ken and Stacie have been honored with the Tree of Life Award from Israel Bonds and serve as Solidarity Founders and Keepers of the Gate for Hadassah. Stacie, who has been a member of Hadassah for 24 years, also holds a position on the organization's national board.

Ken and Stacie are proud parents of Jordan, Kimberly, and Jared and are expecting their first grandchild this September. They have made outstanding contributions to their community through their involvement and dedication to Jewish issues, and I congratulate them on this honor they so richly deserve.

#### WILLIAM R. THURSTON TRIBUTE

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to businessman, community philanthropist, and courageous WWII and Korean War hero, William R. Thurston.

While studying for a geology degree at Harvard University, Mr. Thurston trained to fly torpedo bombers for the Navy after Pearl Harbor. He was awarded the Air Medal 11 times and the Distinguished Flying Cross three times for his bravery while flying missions in the Pacific and over Japan.

Mr. Thurston put his geology degree to use, working for Sun Oil Co. between WWII and the Korean War, and for an independent oilman in Denver after the Korean War.

Mr. Thurston moved to Durango in 1977 with his wife Beatrice, where he became involved in the local arts scene and was an avid supporter of community theater. Lovers of live-music, the Thurstons founded Four corners Opera in 1980, and also became sponsors of Music in the Mountains, organizers for the Raise the Roof concert series, and participants in many other community endeavors.

Mr. Thurston's community involvement also included efforts to preserve and protect the rich history of the Four Corners area, and educate others about the region and its people. He supported the founding of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in 1983, with the hope of sharing his great enthusiasm for the area's remarkable past, precious artifacts, and cultural significance with others.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the inspiring life of William R. Thurston. Colorado was fortunate to benefit from his tremendous spirit and lifetime of community service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ALPHONSE "AL" G. CONDON, JR.

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Alphonse "Al" G. Condon, Jr.

The people of Northwest Florida have come to associate the name Al Condon with the

terms honest, hardworking and benevolent. For 45 years, Mr. Condon practiced law with the Emmanuel, Sheppard and Condon law firm where he demonstrated these traits while serving his community. Mr. Condon, born in Pensacola, graduated from St. Michael's Catholic School and Pensacola Catholic High School. After receiving a bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, from Vanderbilt University, he joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country. He then pursued a law degree from the University of Florida College of Law and established himself as a premier trial lawyer.

Civil litigation was not just a practice for Mr. Condon. His passion for justice transpired from the courtroom into his daily activities as well and is evident in his service as a past President of the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association, member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and an emeritus member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. Mr. Condon also served as special counsel to former Governor Bob Graham.

The impact Al Condon had on the Northwest Florida community extended far beyond his legal practice. A pivotal leader in the local community, Mr. Condon was actively involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Development Council of Pensacola Catholic High School, the YMCA, Pensacola Sports Association, and the City of Pensacola Recreation Board. The Catholic Church recognized Mr. Condon's lifetime service to the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee by awarding him the Medal of Honor.

Throughout his life, Al Condon exemplified the Catholic High School motto Pro Deo et Patria and United States Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis in all he did. His legacy as a man of honor and sacrifice for his community will stand the test of time. Survived by his wife Judy of 48 years, five children, and nine grandchildren, he will forever be remembered by his family as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Al Condon, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all of us.

#### HONORING PAUL HIRSCHON

#### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2011*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Hirschon, the Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico for his many years of service to the South Florida Jewish Community, which is being honored this evening by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

Born in London, Mr. Hirschon spent his early life in South Africa and pursued degrees in accounting, law, and business before immigrating to Israel. Upon his move to Israel, Mr. Hirschon served in the Israel Defense Forces and worked in the Civil Service.

After a brief time back in England, Mr. Hirschon returned to Israel and spent ten years as a respected businessman in the high-tech sector, where he focused on developing lasting relationships with businesses throughout the Middle East. However, in 2004, Mr.